

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT MUNICH: ARRIVAL STATEMENT

SECTO 209

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR SCOWCROFT AND ZIEGLER

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF AN INTERVIEW THE SECRETARY
MADE WITH HANS GRESSMANN OF THE FIRST GERMAN TELEVISION
CHANNEL (ARD) TO BE TELECAST AT 2015 (CENTRAL EUROPEAN
TIME) ON MONDAY, JULY 8.

G: MISTER SECRETARY, JET DIPLOMACY, HELICOPTER DIPLOMACY,
IS THAT YOUR PERSONAL STYLE OR IS IT A NECESSITY OF
MODERN DIPLOMACY?

K: SOME OF IT IS OBVIOUSLY MY PERSONAL STYLE, BUT I THINK
IT'S A KEY ELEMENT NOW IN MODERN DIPLOMACY THAT IT'S EASY
TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COUNTERPART AND THAT SO MANY
INTANGIBLES ARE INVOLVED THAT YOU'RE BETTER OFF WITH
PERSONAL CONTACT.

G: WELL, YOUR PROFESSION IS POLITICAL THEORY AND NOW
YOUR JOB IS BATTLE LINE DIPLOMACY. HOW DOES IT
COMBINE?

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D: THERE'S NO INEVITABLE CONNECTION IN THE SENSE THAT YOU

CANNOT USE POLITICAL THEORY AS A COOKBOOK, AND BECAUSE WHAT YOU CALL BATTLELINE DIPLOMACY DEPENDS ALSO ON PSYCHOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING, HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS AND THE ABILITY TO FIND A CORRECT FORMULA. BUT I WOULD SAY THAT AT LEAST IN MY CASE, I COULDN'T HAVE DONE WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO WITHOUT MY LONG STUDIES IN HISTORY AND POLITICAL THEORY, AND I BELIEVE THAT FOR MOST STATESMEN THIS IS LIKELY TO BE TRUE BECAUSE THE DAY-TO-DAY EVENTS RUN IN ON YOU, AND IF YOU HAVE NO CONCEPT BY WHICH TO SORT THEM OUT, YOU ARE IN GREAT DIFFICULTY.

G: WELL, WITH YOUR TIGHT SCHEDULE, WITH TRIPS ALL OVER THE WORLD, YOU ALL THE TIME SEEM TO BE RELAXED. HOW DO YOU MANAGE?

K: I DON'T THINK MY STAFF WOULD TELL YOU THAT I'M RELAXED. I THINK THERE IS ENOUGH EXCITEMENT IN THE PUBLIC MIND AS IT IS WITHOUT THOSE WHO CONDUCT POLICY CONTRIBUTING TO IT.

G: SOMEBODY SOMEDAY DESCRIBED YOU AS A MIXTURE OF GERMAN SYSTEMATIC (SIC), FRENCH FLEXIBILITY, AND AMERICAN ENERGY. DO YOU THINK IT'S A CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF YOUR CHARACTER?

K: I THINK ONE IS GENERALLY A BAD JUDGE OF ONE'S OWN CHARACTER.

G. BUT FUNDAMENTALLY YOU THINK IT'S . . .

K: WELL, FUNDAMENTALLY IT'S TRUE THAT I TRY TO BE FLEXIBLE. I TRY TO BE THEORETICAL, CONCEPTUAL, AND I'M LUCKY TO HAVE A LOT OF PHYSICAL ENERGY.

G: ONE LAST QUESTION. AGAIN SOMEBODY SOMEDAY SAID THERE MIGHT EVEN BE A SORT OF AN EROTIC SENSE OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POWER AND HENRY KISSINGER.

K: I THINK, I HAVEN'T HEAR THAT. THAT IS ONE STATEMENT I HAVEN'T HEARD. BUT, I THINK THERE IS IN ANY EVENT A SORT OF EROTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POWER, AND THAT HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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TO BE EXERCIZED ON THE BASIS OF A COMMITMENT IN A SHORT TIME SPAN. WHETHER IT'S MORE SO IN MY CASE THAN IN OTHERS, I DON'T KNOW. THAT I HAVE THOUGHT OF MYSELF.

G: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MISTER SECRETARY.KISSINGER

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